

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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### HINCHEY JOINS CLINTON IN INTRODUCING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) this week introduced two bills that are part of the economic development package introduced by U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) in the Senate. Hinchey is the primary House sponsor of the Technology Extension Act of 2001 and the Regional Skills Alliances Act of 2001.

"Advanced technology is making the world a very small place, opening up the possibility of doing business all over the world from a small town in upstate New York," Hinchey said. "Before this can happen, we need to give local companies and entrepreneurs the infrastructure, skills, and training they need to operate in the global marketplace. This is why I took the lead on the two bills that establish programs to help small businesses take advantage of emerging technologies through technical assistance and job training."

The Technology Extension Act would establish a Commerce Department grant program to create and support regional centers to help small- and medium-sized companies use advanced technologies in their businesses. A regional center may use grant proceeds to assist businesses in addressing their most critical needs for the application of the latest technology, improvement of infrastructure, and use of best business practices; and to transfer technologies to businesses in the region in order to create jobs and increase production.

The Regional Skills Alliances Act would create a Labor Department grant program to support regional consortia that work together to improve job skills for employment in specific industries. The program would give priority to alliances that have a majority of representatives from small businesses. In addition, the Secretary of Labor will be able to provide matching grants to States to assist businesses, organizations, and agencies in forming regional consortia under this Act. Last month Hinchey and Clinton visited the Broome-Tioga BOCES Job Training Center in Binghamton to highlight a local regional skills alliance that would benefit from the proposed grant program.

Both bills mirror components of the legislative package introduced by Clinton in the Senate last month. The legislation is designed to aid economic growth in areas like upstate New York.